(c) and (d) The broad project theme has been "Strategies and Preparedness for Trade and Globalisation in India", focusing on key trade and trade policy issues affecting India, including, food security and rural livelihoods. The participants were unanimous in their view that during the on-going WTO negotiations on agriculture, protecting the interests of India's farmers should be India's most important negotiating objective. Government has assured the participants that the interests of farmers would be protected without any compromises during the negotiations in accordance with the Doha mandate to negotiate substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, elimination of all forms of export subsidies by an early end-date, substantial improvemens in market access as well as through appropriate policy flexibilities to safeguard food and livelihood security concerns and to meet rural development needs. The participants also noted the livelihood concerns arising from the industrial sector negotiations, such as in the small scale industries, and sought enhanced market access in goods and services of export interest to India. The Government has assured the participants that appropriate flexibilities to address any concerns will be negotiated consistent with the domestic imperatives and the mandate for negotiations in industrial goods and servics. Technical inputs and detailed deliberations at these consultation workshops, including on issues relating to subsidies and countervailing measures and protecting India's biological diversity, have been found useful. Suggestions received in any stakeholder consultation are appropriately factored in India's negotiating strategy and positions after due consideration.

Request of vanaspathi industry

1516. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether vanaspathi industry has requested that import duty free vanaspathi from Sri Lanka should be allowed only through State Trading Corporation/NAFED; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The representatives of vanaspathi industry have requested the import of duty-free vanaspati from Sri Lanka under India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement should be canalized. The Government has not taken any decision on this issue.